Export Oriented units in VEPZ

1512. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone has approved proposals from the industrialists in order to set up various export oriented units at the Zone; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the suggestions made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) On the basis of proposals received from entrepreneurs, 17 projects have been approved for establishment in the Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone, of which two are in operation and the remaining are at various stages of implementation. These projects broadly fall under the product groups of computer systems and fax paper rolls, readymade garments, pharmaceutical products, plastic goods, automobile wheels etc.

Steps taken to increase exports from Export Processing Zones include broadening of the area of activity to cover trading re-export after re-packing/ labelling flexible value addition norms and simplification of Custom procedures.

Export Import Trade which China

1513. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total exports to and imports from the People's Republic of China in each of the years since 1991-92;

(b) whether proposals are on the anvil raise the volume of trade with that country; and

(c) the specific problems and difficulties that are being encountered in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) the total exports to and imports from the People's Republic of China since 1991-92, as per statistics published by DGCI&S are as given below:—

Year	Exports	Imports (Rs. in lakhs)
1991-92	11876.87	5141.96
1992-93	39763.10	37408.76
1993-94	85718.56	97235.44
1994-95	79971.57	236802.24
1995-96	109743.97	273283.82
1996-97 (Upto Dec., '96)	145945.52	178513.91

The statistics indicate a steady growth in the volume of bilateral trade. Constant efforts are made to increase the bilateral trade further through bilateral trade agreements, review meetings, Indo-China Business Councils Meetings, increased participation in Trade Fairs, Joint Ventures, and facilitating increased interaction between the business communities of the two countries.

Growth in Exports

1514. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as against the annual target of about twenty per cent growth to reach a level of $ 38 billion in the current fiscal year, the exports during first nine months grew by barely six per cent at $ 24.2 billion while imports grew at 4.41 per cent, aided albeit by an over forty per cent growth in oil imports as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 20th February, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons for deceleration in export growth particularly negative growth in exports during November-December, 1996 in items like gems and jewellery, garments, carpets etc.; and

(c) the steps Government propose t.